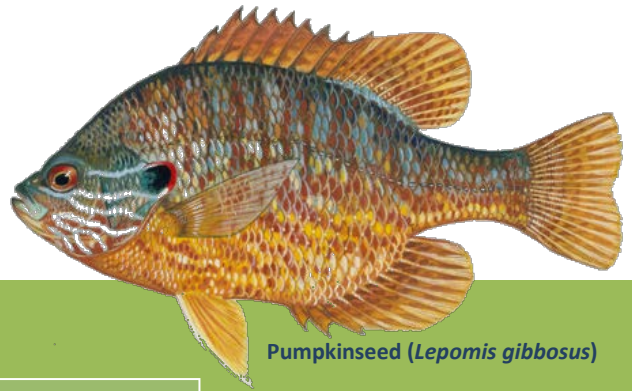


**CT DEEP** **2015**  
**FISHING REPORT NUMBER 16**  
**7/30/2015**



Pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*)



**YOU CAN FIND US DIRECTLY ON FACEBOOK.** This page features a variety of information on fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching in Connecticut. The address is [www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife).

**SHARE THE EXPERIENCE**  
Take someone fishing

## INLAND REPORT

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** Fishing has been generally fair to good throughout the state, with reports from Quaddick Lake (on the slow side), Fitchville Pond (good), Green Falls Reservoir (good), Hopeville Pond (good), Pickerel Lake (slow), Uncas Pond (fair), Candlewood Lake (fair to good reports for largemouth), Congamond Lakes (fair to good), Highland Lake (good), Lake McDonough (fair), Wononskopomuc Lake (good), West Side Pond (slow), and East Twin Lake (fair). **Tournament angler** reports are from Lake of Isles (fair fishing, 3.25 lb lunker), Pachaug Pond (fair action, but some good size, with fish averaging over 2 lbs apiece and a 5.98 lb lunker), Lake Lillinonah (fairly good fishing, with a 4.17 lb lunker), Lake Zoar (fair to good for largemouth, 5.52 lb lunker), and Candlewood Lake (fair to good, with a 5.71 lb lunker). Smaller ponds are providing some very good action, early morning and late evening, try crawlers and sunfish.

**SMALLMOUTH BASS** Catches reported from West Thompson Lake (some nice action), Candlewood Lake (slow, but it may be picking up a bit), Lake McDonough (slow), Highland Lake (fair to slow), and Colebrook Reservoir (some good action, plus one report of a very large smallie being caught, but it was released with only a photo, and no measurements). Good river smallmouth action reported from the Housatonic River, with some catches on the Yantic River and Naugatuck River. **Tournament angler** reports are from Lake Lillinonah (good for smallmouth, with some good size -fish averaged 1.5 lbs each including some 3-3.5 lb smallmouth), Lake Zoar (very good for smallies, including a 5.37 lb lunker), and Candlewood Lake (tough finding too many, lunkers include a 4.34 smallmouth).

**WALLEYE.** Some good catches reported from Squantz Pond (including 7 lb & 8 lb beauties), but it's been slow at Lake Saltonstall and Beach Pond.

**NORTHERN PIKE.** Fair to good fishing for pike at Bantam Lake, some catches reported from Winchester Lake. It's been quiet at Pachaug Pond and Quaddick Lake. A 9 lb pike reported from Lake Zoar.

### COMING IN AUGUST, ANOTHER FREE FISHING LICENSE DAY

The second 2015 Free Fishing License Day is **August 15, 2015** (NCLI and CARE Saltwater fishing event at Fort Trumbull State Park). **Anyone can obtain a free one-day fishing license to fish each of these days.**

**The free 1-day license for fishing on August 15, 2015 will be available starting on July 25, 2015.** They can be obtained through our convenient online at [www.ct.gov/deep/sportsmenlicensing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/sportsmenlicensing) (now mobile friendly!) and at the same vendors ([Designated vendor \(tackle shop\)](#)), Town Halls and DEEP offices where other licenses are available ([DEEP Offices](#)).



**KOKANEE SALMON.** Good early morning action reported from East Twin Lake (mostly smaller fish). Target 20 -30 feet and troll slow (0.9-1.4 mph).

**CATFISH.** Some “good-size” catfish reported from Wauregan Reservoir (including some albinos surprising anglers).

**CHAIN PICKEREL.** Plenty of pickerel being found at Lake Wonoskopomuc, Westside Pond and Hall’s Pond.

**CALICO BASS** fishing is good in most areas throughout the state where they can be found, with reports from Candlewood Lake, Highland Lake, West Thompson Reservoir and a number of southeastern CT waters.

**PANFISH** continue to provide excellent action. In the shallows with long legged lures, bobbers and worms, grubs or small shiners will make many young anglers happy. Your small local ponds are often great places for panfish, bigger waters to try include Birges Pond, Pierrpont Pond, Lake Winnemaug, Lake Waramaug, Tollgate Pond, Valley Falls Pond, Hayward Lake, Amos Lake, Aspinook Pond, Dog Pond, Halls Pond, Glasgo Pond, Mudge Pond and Gorton Pond.

**TROUT-LAKES & PONDS** - Summer trout anglers continue to find some action (generally deep), with reports from East Twin Lake (some nice browns in the mix, lead core at 4-5 colors), Candlewood Lake (still some fish being found), Quonnipaug Lake (on the slow side, troll slow), and Highland Lake (trolling live bait).

**TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS** - Conditions will be variable this weekend, with warm-hot weather in the forecast, and flows dropping below (in some cases well below) typical late July levels (*see stream flow graphic on page 4*). Flows some areas may improve for the weekend as a passing front and some storms are in the forecast for later Thursday. This is summer so remember to handle your catch carefully to avoid undue stress on the fish. Early and late in the day are peak fishing times during this time of the year. Some action reported last week from the West Branch Farmington River (very good), Farmington River and Housatonic River. Use streamers to lure a few hiding fish out of holes.

**Farmington River** - Fishing has been very good, with morning water temperatures in the upper 50’s to low 60’s °F and clear, moderate flows (currently 262 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding 22 cfs).

**Hatches/patterns.** include *Ephemera needhami* (#22-26,

#### ZEBRA MUSSELS REMINDER

Zebra mussels are now found in a number of locations scattered throughout the Housatonic River and its impoundments including Lake Lillinonah (*since 2010*), Lake Zoar (*since 2010*) and Lake Housatonic (*since 2011*).

Prior to their discovery in Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar in 2010, zebra mussels had been found (1998) in CT only in East Twin Lake and West Twin Lake (Salisbury). Anglers fishing in any of these waters and western Connecticut in general **should use extra care to avoid transporting water, aquatic vegetation, and possibly zebra mussels to new locations.** Information

For more information including precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of zebra mussels to additional waters, visit [www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies](http://www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies) or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2015 CT angler’s Guide( [www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide](http://www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide)).



#### Attention:

#### OUTDOOR GROUPS/CLUBS/BUSINESSES.

The upcoming **Hunting and Fishing Day**, September 26, 2015 is from 10 am to 4 pm at Sessions Woods Wildlife Management area and would DEEP would like to invite you to attend.

There is no charge for the event and you can showcase your group/business/organization with a tabletop display.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Laurie Fortin at [laurie.fortin@ct.gov](mailto:laurie.fortin@ct.gov).

For more information on the event go to: [www.ct.gov/deep/huntfishday](http://www.ct.gov/deep/huntfishday).

early morning), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #10-12, fast water, evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp., #18-24, mid-late afternoon to evening), Sulphurs duns (*Epeorus vitreus*, #16-18, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners), Rusty Spinner (#14-24), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #18-22, evening), Midges (#20-32, morning), Black Ants (#14-18, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#8-10, mid day), and Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid).

**Housatonic River** – Fishing has been good, and conditions will be fair-good for the weekend. Flows are very fishable, being clear and moderate (just a little higher than typical late July levels, currently 397 cfs at Falls Village and 542 cfs at Gaylordsville) but water temperatures have warmed, now in the low 70's °F.

**Hatches/patterns.** Some rumors abound, but the White Fly (*Ephoron leukon*) hatch has not reportedly started yet. Current hatches/patterns include some Blue Wing Olive (#18-22, early morning & cloudy days; spinner fall in evening), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), and assorted caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Terrestrial season should be here, Black/Cinnamon Ants (#14-20, midday in fast water), Black Beetles (#14-18, midday) and Flying Ants (#18-22, midday, when windy/humid) often work.

**Anglers are reminded that the thermal refuge areas on the Housatonic, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers are now closed to fishing (as of June 15). These areas will reopen on September 15. There is no fishing within 100 feet of signs indicating such closure at or near the mouths of tributaries to these rivers. Additionally, a thermal refuge has been established on the Salmon River in East Haddam, located around a spring entering the Salmon River approximately 220 feet south of the unused paved boat launch at the state-owned property formerly known as the Sunrise Resort off of Route 151. The refuge includes all water within 100 feet from the end of the pipe as posted. The Salmon River refuge will be closed to fishing and access through September 15.**

## CONNECTICUT RIVER

The river is at very comfortable levels for fishing and boating, with low turbidity and flows a little higher than typical mid-summer levels. Fishing has been generally quiet. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing has been on the slow side, with some catches reported north of Hartford in the Enfield area, and in the Middletown to Haddam stretch. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being caught near the confluence of the Farmington River and in the Enfield area. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing has been fair to good in the coves. Catches include 4.5 lb and 3.4 lb fish. Some **CALICO BASS** action on small minnows is reported in coves by anglers fishing deeper water. **CATFISH** fishing has been good. Target shallow areas near deep drop-offs.

### REMINDER TO ANGLERS-

**FISHING IN OR CASTING INTO PERMITTED SWIM AREAS IS PROHIBITED.**

State regulations prohibit fishing in or into a swim area that's been permitted by DEEP. Additionally, vessels cannot be operated within a permitted swim area, and there's a 100 foot "no-wake" zone around the perimeter. Swim areas that have been permitted by DEEP will be marked by white buoys with orange markings, and there should be a permit number posted on the buoys. They may or may not have small orange barrier floats to further demarcate the area. Should questions arise concerning the validity of the swim area (*no permit numbers or the area appears to have been changed/enlarged or keeps moving*), please contact DEEP's Boating Division at 860-434-8638.



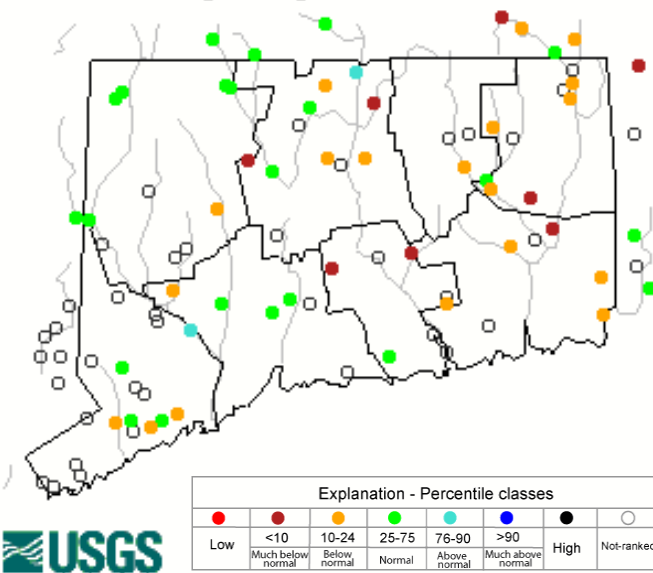
**NOTES & NOTICES:**

**BANTAM LAKE (herbicide treatment).** Limited portions of Bantam Lake are scheduled to be treated with herbicides on **Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>**. The state launch and marina will remain open, boaters are advised to stay at least 500 feet away from treatment areas (maps will be posted at access points) on the day of treatment.

**BANTAM LAKE (triathlon).** The swim portion of a triathlon will be conducted on Friday, July 31 (raindate is Saturday, August 1), from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm at Sandy Beach in North Bay.

**BASHAN LAKE (drawdown).** Bashan Lake remains drawn down (slow refill has begun – lake currently down approximately 10 feet) following dam repairs and the state boat launch is closed.

**LAKE ZOAR (drawdown).** A 22 mile Ski-a-thon water ski challenge fundraiser for people with disabilities is scheduled for Sunday, August 2, along the length of Lake Zoar. This event run from 7:30 am to 11 am, and boaters are asked to take extra care on the lake during the event, and avoid interfering with the event.

**Stream flow conditions as of 7/30/2015****Thursday, July 30, 2015 15:30ET**

Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>

A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of data in the data set equal to or below it. For example streamflow greater than the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered “above normal”. Stream flow between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> are considered to be “normal flows” and those 25<sup>th</sup> or less are considered to be “below normal”.

**LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS**

Bathymetric maps of many of Connecticut’s public access lakes and ponds can be found online at:

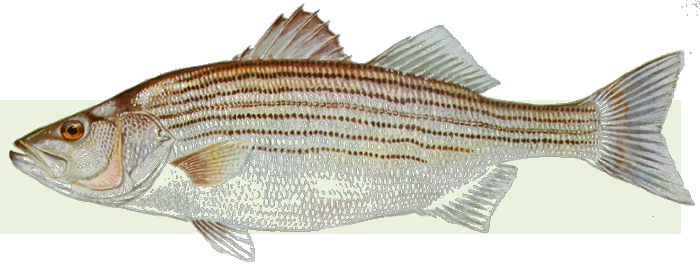
[www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general\\_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf)

Both plain line maps and maps overlaying an aerial photo available.





## MARINE FISHING REPORT



**OUR APOLOGIES – THE MARINE FISHING REPORT IS TAKING A VACATION THIS WEEK, BUT IT WILL BE BACK NEXT WEEK. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE.**

### **SPECIAL NOTES & REMINDERS**

- To find a saltwater shore fishing spot close to where you live, go to the following website: <http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess/>.
- In addition, Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing sites and other fishing information including a site map go to the following website <http://www.depdata.ct.gov/maps/saltwaterfish/map.htm>.
- Please see page 60 of the [2015 CT Angler's Guide](#) for CT tides.

### **BRACKISH WATER & SEA TURTLE INFORMATION**

- See [IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON SEA TURTLES](#)
- [NORTHERN DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN TURTLE](#) – *Many shore anglers fishing in the lower Connecticut and Housatonic Rivers and other estuaries are encountering these beautiful brackish water turtles while fishing. They will frequently feed on fishermen's live or dead bait when bottom fishing. They are a protected species with very low abundance. Please take great care (use needle nose pliers) when removing the hook and release the turtle with unavoidable harm. Terrapins have a long lifespan of about 25 to 40 years.*

**For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations:** Anglers should consult the 2015 Connecticut Anglers Guide which is now available at most Town Clerks Offices, DEEP offices and at tackle stores selling fishing licenses. Current regulations, electronic versions of the Angler's Guide and additional information can all be accessed on the DEEP website at: [www.ct.gov/deep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing).

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### **DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report**



**Connecticut Department of  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106  
[www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep)

Pumpkinseed & Striped Bass images  
courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.